

Erigeron salishii (Douglas & Packer)

Salish daisy, Salish fleabane
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G2S2

General Description: A perennial growing in dense tufts with woolly stems that reach up to 1 to 3 in. (1½ to 8 cm) in height. Coarse, stiff hairs cover the scale-like bract that sits atop the stem. The persistent leaves are basal, mostly three-clefted, and covered above with coarse stiff hairs. The flower heads are solitary with a base composed of 15 to 25 purplish or purple-tipped bracts. The bracts taper towards the end and are densely covered with long, white hair. The 15 to 30 ray florets per inflorescence can range in color from white to blue to purplish-blue. The achenes can be hairy or glabrous and contain 15 to 20 bristles in the pappus.

Identification Tips: In the past, this species was placed with *Erigeron compositus* var. *discoideus* or *E. lanatus*. However, recent studies by Douglas and Packer (1988) have found that *E. salishii* is differentiated by persistent, three-lobed leaves that are of similar shape and size. The species is also distinguishable by its densely clustered habit.

Phenology: Identifiable in July.

Range: *E. salishii* is known from central Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and Okanogan and Chelan counties of the North Cascades range in Washington.

Habitat: In Washington, the species occurs primarily on dry scree slopes and sedge meadows in the alpine zone and ridgetops with granite, rock, and loess soils at an elevation of 6600 to 9000 ft (2012 to 2743 m).

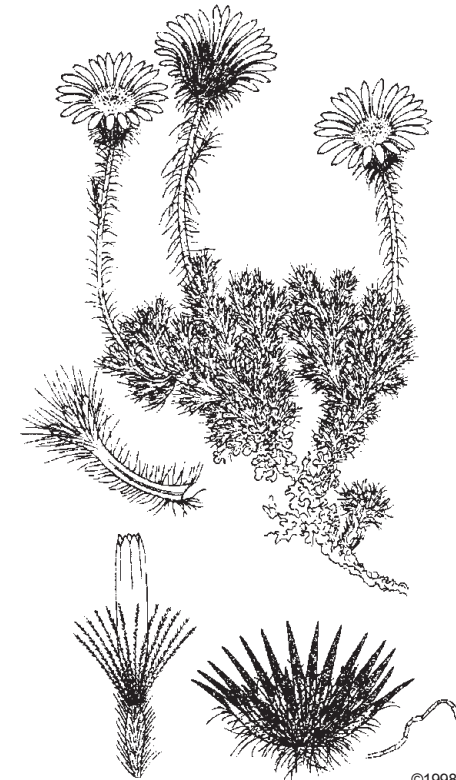
Ecology: Distribution for the species tends to be scattered in small, protected pockets. The habit in which the plant is found tends to be slightly less steep than surrounding areas with unstable soils.

State Status Comments: The two known populations occur in the Wenatchee National Forest and the Okanogan National Forest. The species is also critically imperiled in British Columbia.

Inventory Needs: Little inventory has been done for the species.

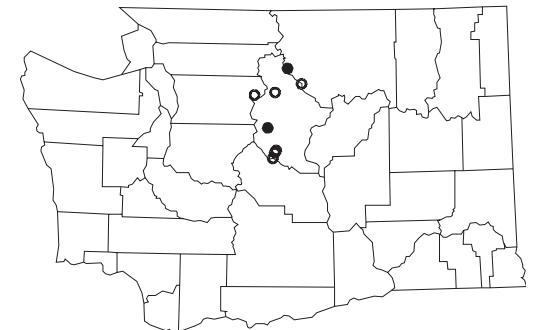
Erigeron salishii

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Illustration by Elizabeth J. Stephen

Known distribution
of *Erigeron salishii*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Lindsey Herman

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Threats and Management Concerns: Grazing is a possible threat to the species.

Comments: The species has previously been identified as *Erigeron compositus* var. *discoideus* or *E. trifidus*.

References:

Douglas, G. W., Packer, J. G. 1988. *Erigeron salishii*, a new *Erigeron* (Asteraceae) from British Columbia and Washington." *Canadian Journal of Botany* 66 (33): 414-416.

Douglas, G. W., Straley, G. B., Meidinger, D. and Pojar, J. 1998. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia. Vol. 1: Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons*. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. 436 pp.

Douglas, G. W. 1995. *The Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) of British Columbia Volume 2: Asteraceae, Anthemideae, Eupatorieae and Inuleae*. Royal British Columbia Museum. 401 pp.